

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ & the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 15, 2023:

11:00 AM

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

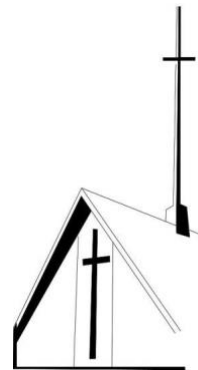
We are now in the Season of Epiphany! The word epiphany means "to reveal." On the first Sunday of Epiphany many Christian churches commemorate the story of the three Magi who followed a star to Bethlehem—the time at which Christ began to be revealed to the world. For seven weeks we are in the Season of Epiphany, from that story of the mysterious star over Bethlehem, to Christ's transfiguration on the mountain. This is a season for us to consider what the scriptures reveal about the life of Christ. As we do, we can find ourselves closer to the heart of God.

Today's Readings:

1 Corinthians 1:2-9

Psalm 40:1-11

John 1:29-42



Theme:

Look! The Lamb of God

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Senior Pastor

Pastor Joy Johnson, Associate Minister

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude

Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements

Centering Music

Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

All: And also with you.

One: Holy and loving God, you created us in love and made us to be free. But from love and freedom we have sometimes chosen pathways that cause suffering and alienation.

All: Unwilling to override our free will, yet even more unwilling to see us lose the light of love, at just the right time you revealed your unending grace for us in Christ Jesus—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen!

* Opening Hymn “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” #99

You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory. Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.

* **Opening Prayer**

***Sign of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)

First Reading

The Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:2-9

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Responsorial

Psalm 40:1-11

One: I waited patiently for the LORD; God inclined to me and heard my cry. The Holy One drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

All: The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and be reverent and will put their trust in the LORD.

One: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

All: Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

One: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

All: Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever. Amen.

*Doxology

"Glory Be to God, Creator" #145

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One

As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be,
In a world without an ending, glory through eternity.

Holy, holy God Almighty! Holy, holy Prince of Peace!
Holy, holy Wind of Presence! Holy, holy, holy! Amen!

***Gospel**

John 1:29-42

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

Look! The Lamb of God

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

"There is a Redeemer" #117

There is a Redeemer—Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain:

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.
(Refrain)

When I stand in Glory, I will see his face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
(Refrain)

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table! Christ promised that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we not only remember him, but we commune with him by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. We come to the table as a people who are learning the way of Christ. We confess that we are not always right. But we share this faith: that those who trust in Christ Jesus will grow in the assurance of God's eternal love.

Pastor: And so, here at this table we take bread and cup and ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us: communion with Christ, who gave his life as the bread of heaven and as the cup of eternal life.

All: Here at this table we remember that Christ gave his entire life as an outpouring of God's love—a love that will, one day, renew all things. Amen.

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

Communion Music

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And also with you.***

One: *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows.... [*prayer requests are presented*] ... Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For those who have been trapped by the image of an unforgiving God, may the light of Christ reveal to all of us that we are surrounded by unending mercy.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: That we would find joy in turning to the things of God.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For all that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we come to you in the confidence of quiet, O God, and lift our petitions privately to you. (*Silent prayer*)... Almighty God, Sovereign of Heaven, shower your blessings upon all people! Move the mountains in our lives, or help to move us so that we might be fully at peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

All: **“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors—and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever.” Amen.**

Offering

Our offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.

If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at:

www.communityunited.church/donate/

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Ministry of Music and Time for Contemplation

Cheryl Strecker

Your offerings make this inclusive ministry possible. Thank you! Because of you, our church reaches through and beyond Erie: providing worship, community, and service. As you can give generously, it is well received.

Offertory Prayer of Thanks

*Congregational Response #147

*“Praise God, from whom all blessing flow:
Praise God, all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known!
Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!”*

*Departing Prayer

One: Holy and loving God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal Jesus Christ as our Savior.

All: Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “Through the Darkness of the Ages” #536

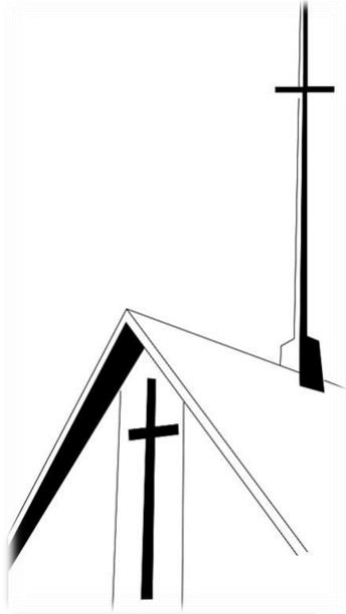
Through the darkness of the ages, through the sorrows of the days,
Strength of weary generations, lifting hearts in hope and praise,
Light in darkness, joy in sorrow, presence to allay all fears,
Jesus, you have kept your promise, faithful through two thousand years.

Bounty of two thousand harvests, beauty of two thousand springs;
He who framed the times and seasons has vouchsafed us greater things.
Word of God who spoke creation—speaks forgiveness, speaks to save,
Gathers still his ransomed people in the life he freely gave.

Countless flowers have bloomed and withered, countless noons are sealed in night,
Shattered thrones and fallen empires, realms and riches lost from sight.
Christ, your kingdom still increases as the cen-tur-ies unfold.
Grain that fell to earth and perished has brought forth ten thousand fold.

Master, we shall sing your praises, man of sorrows, God of power.
For the measured march of seasons shall at last bring in the hour
When, as lightning leaps the heavens, you return to lead us home.
You have promised “I am coming.” Swiftly, our Lord Jesus, come.

**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning at
Community United Church!**



Next Sunday, January 22, 2023:

11:00 AM

Readings:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

The Third Sunday after Epiphany:

Calling, Preaching, Healing: The Works of Christ Revealed

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
with a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

www.communityunited.church



Community United Church

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Monday: Church Council 6:30
Wednesday: RESONATE

Reminder:

Annual Congregation Meeting on January 29th immediately following worship. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army), Mathew Anderson (Army) and DJ Miaczynski (Marines)

PRAYERS FOR:

Rod and Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Sue Scheiwer, Julie Davis, Diane Walker, George Churley, Robin Adams, Ralph Kester, Sharon Cooper, Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Jared and Priscilla Hall, Ron Celeski, Sally Cubetus, and Annette and Ralph Minich.

Council Members:

Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Ginnie Burger (Treas.), Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall